



# SENATE RULES

adopted by  
81st LEGISLATURE  
January 14, 2009

Senate Resolution No. 14



**Rule 5.08**

rerefer bills, to concur in House amendments to Senate bills, to not concur in House amendments to Senate bills, to request the appointment of conference committees, and to adopt conference committee reports.

This concludes the morning call, which the President shall announce to the Senate.

It shall not be in order, during the morning call, to move to take up a bill or resolution out of its regular order, and the presiding officer shall not recognize any Senator for the purpose of making any such motion or making a motion to suspend this rule.

**Editorial Note**

A motion to set a bill for a special order may be made under Item (5) of this rule, and motions to reconsider, to print or not print bills, and to re-refer bills may properly be made under Item (5) of the morning call.

**ORDER OF CONSIDERING BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Rule 5.09.** At the conclusion of the morning call, the Senate shall proceed to consider business on the President's table, which shall be disposed of in the following order:

- (1) special orders;
- (2) unfinished business;
- (3) Senate Joint Resolutions;
- (4) Senate Resolutions;
- (5) Senate Concurrent Resolutions;
- (6) Senate bills on third reading;
- (7) Senate bills on second reading;

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- (8) House Joint Resolutions;
- (9) House bills on third reading;
- (10) House bills on second reading;
- (11) House Concurrent Resolutions.

The above order is for Senate bill days, except as modified by any Joint Rules.

**Notes of Rulings**

The order of business as set forth above may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate (42 S.J. Reg. 1682 (1931)).

A House bill laid before the Senate as an unfinished special order should be disposed of before any other House bill which has been set for a special order is taken up for consideration (46 S.J. Reg. 1853 (1939)).

A motion to suspend the regular order of business is not in order while other business is pending under a rule suspension (46 S.J. Reg. 1886 (1939)).

The bill next on calendar is not to be passed over, due to author's absence (47 S.J. Reg. 397 (1941)).

A motion to suspend the regular order of business is not a debatable motion (61 S.J. Reg. 1101 (1969)).

**HOUSE BILL DAYS**

**Rule 5.10.** On calendar Wednesday and calendar Thursday of each week, House Joint Resolutions and House bills on special order and on third and second readings, respectively, and House Concurrent Resolutions shall be taken up and considered until disposed of; provided in case one should be pending at adjournment on

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Thursday, it shall go over until the succeeding calendar Wednesday as unfinished business.

**Notes of Rulings**

A House bill, by a two-thirds vote, may be taken up and considered by the Senate on any day of the week (46 S.J. Reg. 635-636 (1939)).

When the Senate adjourns on Thursday of any week with a House bill pending, the bill then pending, whether it is a special order or not, may not be further considered until Wednesday of the next succeeding week unless the Senate by a two-thirds vote agrees to consider it further prior to that day (46 S.J. Reg. 1704 (1939)).

House bills may be considered in Senate under a suspension of the regular order of business on days other than calendar Wednesday and calendar Thursday (48 S.J. Reg. 1051 (1943)).

When a member is discussing a Senate bill on calendar Monday or calendar Tuesday (which are considered Senate bill days in the Senate) and 12:01 o'clock a.m. Wednesday arrives (which is considered a House bill day in the Senate), no further discussion may be had on the Senate bill (61 S.J. Reg. 956 (1969)).

Consideration of a Senate bill taken up out of order on a Senate bill day may not be continued when a House bill day arrives (66 S.J. Reg. 1355 (1979)).

A House Concurrent Resolution taken up in its calendar order on a House bill day may not be further considered when a Senate bill day arrives (71 S.J. 1 C.S. 73 (1989)).

When rules have been suspended to permit consideration of a Senate bill on a House bill day, an additional suspension is

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not required to permit consideration to continue when a Senate bill day arrives (73 S.J. Reg. 1082 (1993)).

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

**Rule 5.11.** (a) Any bill, resolution, or other measure may on any day be made a special order for a future time of the session by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present.

(b) A special order shall be considered at the time for which it is set and considered from day to day until disposed of, unless at the time so fixed there is pending business under a special order, but such pending business may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of all the members present. If a special order is not reached or considered at the time fixed, it shall not lose its place as a special order. All special orders shall be subject to any Joint Rules and Rule 5.10.

(c) Upon the affirmative vote of four-fifths of the members present, a special order may be reset to an earlier time than previously scheduled.

(d) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) of this rule, a bill or resolution relating to voter identification requirements reported favorably from the Committee of the Whole Senate may be set as a special order for a time at least 24 hours after the motion is adopted by a majority of the members of the Senate.

**Editorial Notes**

A bill once set as a special order does not lose its place on the calendar of special orders if not taken up at the hour for which it is set.

A special order, the hour for the consideration of which has arrived, takes precedence of the unfinished business unless the unfinished business is itself a special order.

**Notes of Rulings**

A bill being considered as a special order that is laid on the table subject to call is no longer a special order (43 S.J. Reg. 980 (1933)).

Refusal of Senate to set bill as special order for a certain hour does not prevent a motion being made and adopted

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immediately thereafter to set the bill as a special order for a different specified hour (45 S.J. Reg. 860 (1937)).

The motion to set a bill for a special order is not a proper substitute for a motion to suspend the regular order of business and take up a bill for immediate consideration (50 S.J. Reg. 1055 (1947)).

When the business before the Senate is a special order, the order of business may be suspended in order to consider other business (61 S.J. Reg. 2034 (1969)).

A motion to set a bill for special order may be made when the Senate is not in morning call (67 S.J. Reg. 1430 (1981)).

When the time set for consideration of a special order arrives, the special order displaces pending business (67 S.J. Reg. 1449 (1981)).

A motion to suspend the regular order of business is not in order when the time set for consideration of a special order has arrived (67 S.J. Reg. 1558 (1981)).

**REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Rule 5.12.** (a) Bills and resolutions shall be considered on second reading and shall be listed on the daily calendar of bills and resolutions on the President's table for second reading in the order in which the committee reports on them are received by the Senate. Upon the filing of a committee report on a bill or resolution as provided by Rule 11.12, the Secretary of the Senate shall note the date and time the report was filed. The Journal Clerk shall record the order in which the committee report was received in the Senate Journal for the day on which the Senate next convenes.

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(b) Bills and resolutions shall be considered on third reading in the order in which they were passed on second reading.

**Editorial Notes**

On the very important matter of the order of considering each of the several bills reported from committees, the rules of the Senate were silent until Senate Rule 5.12 was amended on June 6, 1947, to provide that bills be placed on the calendars of Senate and House bills on the President's table in the order in which the committee reports on the bills are submitted by the respective chairmen from the floor. Bills are listed for consideration on third reading in the order in which they have been passed by the Senate to engrossment or to third reading.

The Senate Agenda is prepared daily and lists the bills in their order of consideration.

**Notes of Rulings**

A bill may not be considered by the Senate which has not been reported from a committee (44 S.J. Reg. 713 (1935)).

A report of a committee on a bill may be received only, and the question of its adoption is not voted on by the Senate (42 S.J. 1 C.S. 748 (1931)).

**SUSPENSION OF THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Rule 5.13.** No bill, joint resolution, or resolution affecting state policy may be considered out of its regular calendar order unless the regular order is suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

**Notes of Rulings**

By suspending the regular order of business, the Senate may take up a bill before the day to which it previously was postponed (67 S.J. Reg. 1057 (1981)).